

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). A clean copy of the amended claims is attached for the convenience of the reader.

1. (Currently amended) A transaction assisting apparatus for assisting transactions in goods ~~in an electronic market where buy orders and sell orders for a same type of good are mutually matched and executed~~, comprising:

an chain order input unit ~~permitting input of sell orders to sell a first type of fungible goods in the electronic market, and permitting the input of automatic chain purchase orders in the electronic market, an automatic chain purchase order being inputted as an order by a first party to, on condition of execution of a sell order for sale of the first type of fungible~~ a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of sale or purchase of first movable goods by customer A, purchase via the electronic market a second type of fungible goods offered on the electronic market, the second type of fungible goods being a type of goods that is or sale of second movable goods different from the first type of fungible goods, where a first party inputs a chain purchase order and a second party inputs a sell order for the first type of movable goods by customer B;

~~an order detecting unit automatically detecting a first execution which is an execution of the inputted sell order for~~ detecting an order for purchase or sale of the first type of fungible movable goods with respect to which the purchase chain order has been placed by the first party, where the sell order is executed by being matched with a corresponding buy order is placed; and

~~for the first type of fungible goods, and where the detected first execution is not an execution of the chain purchase order; and~~

an chain order processing unit; responsive to the detection of the first execution of the ~~sell order for the first type of fungible goods~~ a buy or sell order with respect to a predetermined chain order by said order detecting unit, ~~automatically performing a second execution which is an execution of the chain purchase order for the second type of fungible goods, where the chain~~ for performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first movable goods by said customer A and performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the second movable goods by said customer B

~~purchase order is executed by being matched with a corresponding sell order for sale of the second type of fungible goods.~~

2. (Currently amended) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

chain order storing means for storing the chain order input from said chain order input ~~means~~unit; and

deleting means for deleting, from said chain order storing means, the chain order with respect to which the ~~automatic execution~~sale or purchase has been completed by said chain order processing ~~means~~unit.

3. (Currently amended) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display means for selectively displaying those of the chain orders which include a sell or buy order for the second ~~type of fungible~~movable goods and which satisfy a condition for sale or purchase of the second ~~type of fungible~~movable goods.

4. (Currently amended) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said display means inhibits display of information about a buy or sell order for the second ~~movable type of fungible~~ goods included in the chain order when the chain order is placed, and displays the information after the chain order is executed.

5. (Currently amended) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising price changing means for, responsive to a change in price of the first ~~type of~~ movable goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding second ~~movable type of~~ goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.

6. (Currently amended) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said chain order processing ~~means~~unit performs chain order processing in series if an order placed with respect to the second ~~movable type of fungible~~ goods to be transacted is a chain order.

7. (Previously presented) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising tax amount calculating means for calculating an amount of tax to be paid as a result of the execution of the chain order; and

notifying means for notifying parties concerned in the execution of the chain order of the amount of tax calculated by said tax amount calculating means.

8. (Previously presented) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transfer means for automatically transferring a price and a tax payable as a result of the execution from one to another of accounts of parties concerned in the execution.

9. (Currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program to be executed by a computer for causing the computer to perform a transaction assisting process for assisting transactions in goods, ~~the process comprising:~~

wherein the program causes the computer to function as:

~~permitting input of orders to sell a first type of fungible goods to a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for sale of the first type of fungible~~
sale or purchase of first movable goods by customer A, purchase or sale of a second type of fungible movable goods different from and not fungible with respect to the first type of fungible goods from a third party; the first movable goods by customer B;

~~automatically detecting execution of an order for an order for purchase or sale of the first type of fungible~~
movable goods with respect to which the chain order has been is placed; and

~~responsive-responding to the detection of execution of a sell order for the first type of fungible goods by said a buy or sell order with respect to a predetermined chain order-order detecting means, automatically executing the chain order for the purchase of the second type of fungible goods by performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first movable goods by said customer A and performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the second movable goods by said customer B.~~

10. (Currently amended) A method for assisting transactions in goods, the method comprising:

~~permitting input of orders to sell a first type of fungible goods to a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for sale of the first type of fungible~~
sale or purchase of first movable goods by customer A, purchase of a second type of fungible goods or sale of second movable goods different from the first movable goods by customer B;

~~different from and not fungible with respect to the first type of fungible goods from a third party;~~

~~automatically detecting, by a computer, execution of an order for~~
purchase or sale of the first type of fungible movable goods with respect to which the chain order has been is placed; and

~~responsive-responding to the detection of execution of a buy or sell order for the first type of fungible goods by said order detecting means, automatically executing the~~
with respect to a

predetermined chain order by performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first movable goods by said customer A and performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to for purchase of the second type of fungible movable goods by said customer B.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:
storing the inputted chain order; and
deleting the stored chain order with respect to which the ~~automatic execution~~sale or purchase has been completed.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising
displaying those of the chain orders which include a sell or buy order for the second ~~movable type of fungible~~ goods and which satisfy a condition for sale or purchase of the second ~~movable type of fungible~~ goods.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 12, further comprising inhibiting
display of information about a buy or sell order for the second ~~movable type of fungible~~ goods
included in the chain order when the chain order is placed, and displaying the information after
the chain order is executed.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 12, further comprising,
responsive to a change in price of the first ~~movable type of~~ goods, automatically changing a price
of the corresponding second ~~movable type of~~ goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, ~~wherein said chain order processing means~~further comprising performs performing chain order processing in series if an
order placed with respect to the second ~~movable type of fungible~~ goods to be transacted is a
chain order.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising
calculating an amount of tax to be paid as a result of the execution of the chain order; and
notifying parties concerned in the execution of the chain order of the amount of tax
calculated.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising
automatically transferring a price and a tax payable as a result of the execution from one to
another of accounts of parties concerned in the execution.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus for assisting transactions in goods in an electronic market, comprising:

a chain order input unit permitting input of orders to sell a first type of fungible movable goods to a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for sale of the first movable type of fungible goods by customer A, purchase of a second movable type of fungible goods by customer B from a third party, the second movable type of fungible goods being different from and not fungible with respect to the first movable type of fungible goods;

an order detecting unit automatically detecting execution of an order for said sale of the first movable type of fungible goods with respect to which the chain order has been placed by said customer A; and

a chain order processor, responsive to the detection of execution of a said sell order for the second first movable type of fungible goods by said order detecting unit, automatically executing the chain order for the by purchase purchasing of the second movable type of fungible goods by said customer B.

19 and 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A transaction assisting apparatus for assisting transactions in goods in an electronic market, comprising:

chain order input means for permitting input of orders to purchase a first type of fungible goods from a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of sale or execution of an order for purchase of the first movable type of fungible goods by customer A, purchase or sale of a second movable goods different from the first movable goods by customer B;

second type of fungible goods to a third party, the second type of fungible goods being different from and not fungible with respect to the first type of fungible goods;

order means for detecting means for automatically detecting execution of an order for purchase or sale of the first type of fungible movable goods with respect to which the chain order has been placed; and is placed; and

chain order processing means for, responsive responding to the detection of execution of a buy or sell order for with respect to a predetermined chain order by performing a selling or purchasing process with respect to the first type of movable fungible goods by said customer A by said order detecting means, automatically executing the chain order for the purchase of and

performing a purchasing or selling process with respect to the second type of fungible movable goods by said customer B.